NEWBURN URBAN DISTRICT

(County of Northumberland)

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1969

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SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1969-1970

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Councillor Mrs. E. Watson

Deputy Chairman:

Councillor S. Chapman

Councillor A.I. Barnes

" G. Harrison

" D. Hodson

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" J. Kearman

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OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

H. C. T. Smith, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.P.A.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

John Corney, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

Trevor Harris, M.A.P.H.I.

Frederick William Dixon, M.A.P.H.I.

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

David John Farquhar

Clerk/Shorthand Typist:

Miss M. Brown

Junior Clerk:

Miss P. Ormston

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Telephone: Lemington 674112/3

Council Offices,
Newburn,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE15 8QJ.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Newburn.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the District for 1969.

During 1969 the population of the District increased by 3,500, mainly due to the development of the Denton Park Estate. The birth rate for the district is above the national average in marked contrast to other authorities in the area. Last year comment was made on the number of deaths from respiratory disease in infants. Unfortunately there were four more such deaths this year, and again three were associated with unsatisfactory housing. However during 1969 substantial progress was made with the clearance programme as shown in Mr. Corney's section of the report.

The report also deals with tuberculosis, infectious diseases, immunisation, welfare and housing. Concord House, the grouped dwellings for the elderly at Denton Park were opened in December.

Mr. Corney's section of the report covers environmental health, and the very great amount of routine monitoring work which is carried out. In addition to this the members of the Health Department are called upon in emergency or at short notice to help with a whole range of unexpected problems. They often have to deal tactfully with aggrieved members of the public. All this has been very ably carried out.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the Council for their interest in, and support of the work of the Department.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H. C. T. SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

NEWBURN URBAN DISTRICT

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	4,648
Registrar General's estimated population	37,600
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book	12,730
Rateable Value	£1,230,516
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£5,004

Population trends:

1951	21,890
1956	25,020
1961	27,980
1962	29,000
1963	30,100
1964	30,730
1965	31,630
1966	32,480
1967	33,230
1968	34,100
1969	37,600

VITAL STATISTICS

	Numbers			Rates
	M	F	Total	
Live Births	318	295	613	
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population				16.3
Comparability factor				1.05
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population				17.1
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate				1.05
Illegitimate Live Births	12	16	28	
Illegitimate live birth rate per 100 live births				4.6
Still-births..	2	3	5	
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births				8.1
Total Live and Still-Births	320	298	618	
Infant Deaths (Death in first year of life)	10	2	12	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births				19.6
Legitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births ..				18.5
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..				35.7
Neonatal Deaths (Deaths in first four weeks of life)	7	1	8	
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births				13.0
Early Neonatal Deaths (Deaths in first week of life)	5	1	6	
Perinatal Deaths (Still-births, plus deaths in first week of life)	7	4	11	
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total live and still-births				17.8
Maternal Deaths (Deaths resulting from childbirth or abortion)		Nil		
Deaths	166	165	331	
Crude death rate per 1,000 population				8.8
Comparability factor				1.39
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 population				12.2
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate				1.03

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	(Adjusted) Birth Rate	Illegitimate Live Birth Rate	Still-Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	(Adjusted) Death Rate
1956—60	16.7	1.9	22.2	33.6	25.6	44.4	13.6
1961—65	17.5	3.3	18.6	19.5	14.1	31.4	13.3
1966	16.2	4.5	9.1	18.5	11.1	18.3	12.8
1967	17.3	4.7	14.8	20.1	15.1	29.7	12.7
1968	16.4	4.6	5.1	22.3	12.0	10.2	13.2
1969	17.1	4.6	8.1	19.6	13.0	17.8	12.2

COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS — 1969

	(Adjusted) Birth Rate	Illegitimate Birth Rate	Still-Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neo-natal Mortality Rate	Peri-natal Mortality Rate	Maternal Mortality Rate	(Adjusted) Death Rate	Comparability Factors	
									Births	Deaths
England and Wales	16.3	8.6	13.0	18.0	12.0	23.0	0.19	11.9	1.00	1.00
Northumberland Admin. County	13.9	5.6	12.5	15.6	11.6	21.7	0.42	12.8	1.01	1.03
South Area of Northumberland	12.6	4.7	10.7	15.6	10.8	18.8	0.67	12.3	0.96	1.01
Newburn U.D.	17.1	4.6	8.1	19.6	13.0	17.8	Nil	12.2	1.05	1.39

CAUSES OF STILL BIRTHS

Maternal Diabetes	2
Intra uterine asphyxia	1
Cause unknown	2
	5

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

	Under 1 week	1—4 weeks	4 weeks —1 year	Total
Prematurity	3	—	—	3
Anaemia (unspecified)	1	—	—	1
Congenital abnormalities				
Diaphragmatic hernia	1	—	—	1
Congenital heart disease	—	1	—	1
Meningo-myelocele	—	1	—	1
Acute bronchitis & otitis media	—	—	1	1
Acute bronchiolitis	—	—	2	2
Bronchopneumonia	1	—	1	2
	6	2	4	12

Comment

In last year's report reference was made to deaths of infants from respiratory disease in the post neonatal period, that is between one month and one year. Once again there have been four such deaths. Three of them were associated with unsatisfactory housing, and it is good to know that the particular housing estate concerned is now being dealt with.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH 1969

Cause of Death	M	F	Total	%
Cancer	35	38	73	22.1
Cerebro vascular disease	21	39	60	18.1
Ischaemic heart disease	47	33	80	24.2
All other heart and circulatory disease	10	14	24	7.2
Respiratory disease	26	18	44	13.3
All other diseases	19	17	36	10.9
Accidents and suicide	8	6	14	4.2
	166	165	331	100

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT AGES DURING 1969

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years 1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over
B5 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B6 Other Tuberculosis, incl. Late Effects	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19 (1) Malignant Neoplasm—Buccal Cavity, etc.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B19 (2) Malignant Neoplasm—Oesophagus	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
B19 (3) Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
	F	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	4
B19 (4) Malignant Neoplasm—Intestine	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
	F	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	1	4
B19 (6) Malignant Neoplasm—Bronchus	M	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	10	3
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—
B19 (7) Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
B19 (8) Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
B19 (9) Malignant Neoplasm—Prostate	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B19 (10) Leukaemia	M	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
B19 (11) Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	1	—
	F	6	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	2
B20 Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT AGES DURING 1969 *(Continued)*

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years 1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over
B23 Anaemias	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B46 (3) Mental Disorders	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B46 (4) Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
B27 Hypertensive Disease	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	15	16	10
	F	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	9	22
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	M	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	7	11
	F	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	10	25
B46 (5) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2
B31 Influenza	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
B32 Pneumonia	M	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
	F	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	8
B33 (1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	9	4
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
B46 (6) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	F	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B34 Peptic Ulcer	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT AGES DURING 1969 *(Continued)*

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years 1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over
B36 Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B46 (7) Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
B39 Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
B46 (8) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
B46 (10) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B42 Congenital Anomalies	M	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B43 Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B44 Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	M	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B45 Symptons and Ill-Defined Conditions	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	5	—	—	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
BE48 All Other Accidents	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2
BE50 All Other External Causes	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	**M**	166	7	3	1	3	—	2	6	11	35	58	40
	F	165	1	1	1	—	1	3	4	9	18	36	91

DEATHS FROM CANCER

Site		Age								
		5+	15+	25+	35+	45+	55+	65+	75+	Total
Maxillary antrum	M	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	F	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Tonsil	M	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	F	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
Oesophagus	M	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
	F	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	2
Stomach	M	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	2
	F	–	–	–	1	1	1	1	4	8
Pancreas	M	–	–	–	1	1	–	1	–	3
	F	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
Colon	M	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	2
	F	–	–	–	–	–	4	1	2	7
Rectum	M	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
	F	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	2	3
Lung	M	–	–	–	–	3	2	10	3	18
	F	–	–	–	1	1	2	–	–	4
Breast	F	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	2
Uterus	F	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	–	3
Bladder	M	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
	F	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Prostate	M	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Testis	M	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Skin	M	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	F	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Thyroid	M	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	F	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Sarcomas	M	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	F	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	2
Hodgkin's Disease	M	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
	F	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Leukaemia	M	1	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	3
	F	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	2
Primary site unknown	M	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
	F	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	M	1	–	2	2	7	5	14	4	35
	F	–	1	1	4	4	8	7	12	38

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases Notified				Inward Transfers			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
20 – 24 years	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
25 – 34 years	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
45 – 54 years	2	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
	4	–	–	–	2	–	–	–

Comparison with previous years.

Year	New Cases	Inward Transfers	Deaths
Average 1946—50	38	—	13
Average 1951—55	37	17	5
Average 1956—60	20	13	2
Average 1961—65	16	4	1
1966	7	1	—
1967	8	3	—
1968	7	2	1
1969	4	2	3

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER, 1969

	Number of cases on register at commencement of year		Number of cases notified for the first time		Inward Transfers		Number of cases which have been restored to the register during the year		Number of cases removed from register		Number of cases remaining on register at end of year	
	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.
Males	39	2	4	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	45	2
Females	23	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	21	10

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED, 1969

Disease	Age						
	0—1	1—4	5—14	15—44	45—64	65+	Total
Measles	—	8	3	—	—	—	11
Dysentery	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Infective Jaundice	—	2	12	9	—	—	23
Scarlet Fever	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
Whooping Cough	—	1	1	—	—	—	2

MONTH OF NOTIFICATION

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles	1	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	3	11
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Infective Jaundice	1	—	1	1	1	3	5	3	1	2	2	3	23
Scarlet Fever	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2

INFECTIVE JAUNDICE

All notified cases were visited. In about half of the cases there was an association with a previous case in the family or in the neighbourhood or at school, some three or four weeks previously. In the remainder no possible association with a previous case could be discovered.

Two cases occurred in a large children's home, the second case ten weeks after the first. Since there seemed a chance of the infection becoming widespread in the home, supplies of gamma globulin were obtained and the remaining 39 children and 6 adult resident staff were given the appropriate doseage by injection. No further cases occurred.

DYSENTERY

One case was notified and in this instance no family spread occurred. Two other affected families were found. In one, only one child was affected but in the other four out of the six members of the family were affected.

Two families had been exposed to infection with Shigella sonnei while on holiday but specimens on return were negative. One of the persons involved worked as a cook and she remained off work until investigations were completed.

SALMONELLA INFECTION

A man became infected with Salmonella brandenburg. He was severely ill and spent 10 days in hospital. During this time Salmonella brandenburg was isolated from a blood culture. On discharge from hospital, specimens were negative but they subsequently reverted to positive. Initial specimens from the other six members of the family were negative but subsequently a child aged 4 years became positive although she was not ill.

The source of this infection was not traced.

Twelve other persons were investigated as contacts of food poisoning or typhoid contracted elsewhere but all were negative.

All told, 99 specimens were taken for bacteriological examination.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation and vaccination are now given according to the following schedule:—

Visits	Age	Vaccine
1	4 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
2	6 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
3	12 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
4	2nd year	Measles
5	2nd year	Smallpox
6	4—5 years	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Oral Poliomyelitis
7	10—12 years	B.C.G. (if necessary after skin test)
8	on leaving school	Tetanus and Oral Poliomyelitis

The numbers immunised are given on page 19. The figures for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and Poliomyelitis are satisfactory and indicate that nearly all children are being inoculated. Only about one-third of the children are being vaccinated against smallpox.

In the early part of 1969, supplies of measles vaccine almost ceased as the main manufacturer had to stop production. Only a small number of children were vaccinated.

NUMBERS IMMUNISED DURING 1969

	Year of Birth						
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962-65	1953-61	Total
Primary Triple	11	442	21	5	6	–	485
Primary Diphtheria/Tetanus	–	1	–	–	2	2	5
Primary Tetanus	–	–	–	–	–	6	6
Reinforcing Triple	–	6	419	103	150	–	678
Reinforcing Diphtheria/Tetanus	–	2	16	29	566	27	640
Reinforcing Diphtheria	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
Reinforcing Tetanus	–	–	1	–	7	42	50
Primary Polio	13	443	29	5	12	1	503
Reinforcing Polio	–	9	427	134	728	345	1643
Primary Smallpox Vaccination	4	129	41	10	11	13	208
Re-vaccination	–	–	–	1	6	4	11
Measles Vaccination	–	22	66	39	81	2	210

In the early part of the year emergency action was needed to remove an old lady, living alone, to hospital. Application was made to a Justice of the Peace under the 1951 Amendment and the necessary forms were signed. After being in hospital a few weeks the old lady agreed to remain and no further action was necessary.

HOUSING

MEDICAL POINTS FOR RE-HOUSING

When medical certificates are received in connection with housing applications they are sent to this Department. If the application is a new one, provisional points are added to the housing application, and the person visited at a later date. Others are visited if the medical conditions appear to be severe or if the application has been in for six months.

During 1969, 92 housing cards were examined, and 67 visits were paid to the applicant's home.

Recommendations were as follows:—

A. After visiting.	Cases
Special consideration — letter to House-Letting Committee	4
Two points	16
One point	32
Half point	1
No points	14
	67

B. Provisional allocations.	Cases
Two points	4
One point	16
Half point	1
No points	4
	25

A further 28 visits were paid in connection with the selection of tenants for Concord House, see page 21.

WELFARE

The Council's Welfare Officer, Miss Dorothy Stell, resigned on 12th February, and it was not until 11th August that the new Welfare Officer, Mr. Joseph Ball, took up his duties.

In the early part of the year an attempt was made to start a Meals on Wheels service by the W.R.V.S. but continual difficulties arose and it was not possible to start the service during 1969.

The luncheon clubs continued to function at Throckley, Newburn, Lemington, West Denton and Westerhope although there is a scarcity of volunteers to help. With rising costs the helpers have great difficulty in producing a meal with the finances available and as well as subsidies from this Council and the County Council many of the volunteers are contributing in kind to the meals.

During 1969 discussions took place about the introduction of re-heated frozen meals for both meals on wheels service and the luncheon clubs. While these will be more costly the range of foods is wide. With a micro wave oven they are simple to prepare. Transportation is also easier and with meals on wheels there are no dishes to be returned. Cost would be a major factor if the meals were produced daily but when they are only served once or twice per week it may be that the old people would be willing to pay more for a more elaborate and varied meal. If for instance, a meal cost 5/– and the old person was charged 3/6d. and the rest was subsidised this, once per week, would not be a hardship and would be more of a change for the old people.

During 1969 also an attempt was made to get some battery operated warning lamps manufactured and distributed to elderly people living alone, but difficulty was found in getting them manufactured.

All the clubs helping the elderly in the district continue to thrive. The Grange Welfare Association has been very successful in raising funds and using them to initiate a number of worthwhile projects.

Concord House, on the Denton Park Estate opened in December. There are 22 grouped flatlets, eight with one bedroom and the rest bed-sitting rooms. The warden, Mrs. Olive Duggan, has a flat on the premises and there is a large communal lounge, kitchen and laundry facilities and a spare bedroom for visitors. There is a full bell warning system. The prospective tenants were all recommended by Mr. Ball and myself after a visit to their homes. This type of development answers many of the problems relating to the elderly and infirm and it is good to know that the Council are considering another such scheme at Throckley and perhaps elsewhere.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report for 1969.

The report is presented in its usual form, the detailed activities of the Department being set out in tabular form from which it will be seen that the members of the Department were kept well occupied.

Housing plays an important part in the Department's work and I am pleased to report some progress in the Slum Clearance Programme. Re-housing of the occupants of Lloyd Street, Stanley Street and Union Street at Lemington was completed and the site cleared. This was very welcome after delays caused through new houses at Union Hall Road site not being built as quickly as had been anticipated, a second contractor having to take over from one who had gone into liquidation.

The houses in Francis Terrace, Newburn, which had been subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order were also demolished and the site cleared. The remainder of the houses in the Millfield area, 146 in all, were inspected for clearance and included in a Compulsory Purchase Order in October 1969. The agent for the owners objected to the Order and a public inquiry was arranged to be held in April 1970.

The preservation of older but fit property is to be encouraged and the number of applications for improvement grants, particularly Standard grants continued to be received at a steady rate. Some 600 houses have been improved since the inception of the schemes. Greater incentive to house owners to improve their property was given in the Housing Act, 1969, when the amount of grant was raised from £155 to £200 in the case of Standard grants, and from £400 to £1,000 in the case of Discretionary grants, approved items of repair being admissable for grant in the latter case.

Progress with smoke control was not so satisfactory as with housing. A smoke control order covering 198 houses in that part of Throckley from the Royal French Arms to the Eastern end of Victoria Terrace was made in June, but was not confirmed until 1970. The date of operation has been deferred until August, 1971 because of the difficulty of ensuring adequate supplies of suitable solid smokeless fuels. The slowing down of the smoke control programme was a matter of some regret at a time when residents in all parts of the district were enquiring when their street would become "smokeless".

Turning to the important subject of refuse disposal, in connection with joint arrangements with the Urban districts of Gosforth, Longbenton and Newburn and the City of Newcastle upon Tyne an appraisal

study on "Refuse Incineration at Newcastle upon Tyne", produced by the National Fuel Efficiency Service and the City Engineer was issued and the recommendation was made that one large incinerator instead of two smaller ones should be erected. The site could not be chosen until a decision had been made by the City Council regarding the incorporation of a waste-heat utilisation plant in the scheme. The location of the site was important to Newburn as if it was in the Eastern part of the city it would be necessary to provide a transfer loading station near the Western boundary so that our vehicles did not have an unreasonably long distance to travel.

It is to be hoped that the scheme can be brought into operation without delay as the satisfactory operation of controlled tipping with present day refuse becomes more and more difficult. In addition tipping space is being used up at a relatively quick pace.

It is with regret I have to report that on 9th October, the Refuse Collectors withdrew their labour because of dissatisfaction with wage rates and the Council's proposal regarding the implementation of bonus incentive schemes. This occurred at a time when unrest in the refuse collection service was prevalent throughout the country particularly in the London area, nevertheless after so many years of good labour relations at Newburn the Men's action appeared precipitate.

During the period of the strike paper or polythene sacks were distributed from various depots throughout the district, members of the Chapel House and District Community Association being very helpful in making door to door deliveries on their estate. The great majority of the public co-operated in burning as much refuse as possible and storing the remainder until collections were resumed. There were isolated cases of indiscriminate dumping from the less civic-minded members of the community. Mr. Gray, the foreman, and all members of the staff helped considerably in keeping the public informed of the situation and reducing inconvenience to a minimum and I acknowledge with thanks their ready assistance. With the payment of a £1 interim bonus and the promise of a work-study based bonus scheme the men returned to work.

On the 20th October 1969, Mr. Gray completed 40 years' service with the Council and with the exception of absence due to National Service he had not lost one day's work in that time. The Council marked the occasion by a presentation of a gold watch.

As in previous years I wish to record my thanks for the support and encouragement shown by Mrs. Watson and the members of the Health Committee. Dr. Smith and the other chief officers have shown their customary co-operation which I much appreciate.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
J. CORNEY,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

Nature of Inspection	Visits
Agricultural (Sanitary Conveniences on Farms)	14
Clean Air Act	679
Caravan Act	3
Civic Amenities Act	19
Disinfestation	105
Factories Act	18
Food & Drugs Act	75
Food Hygiene Regulations	61
Housing	908
Infectious Disease	183
Meat Inspection	46
Miscellaneous	694
National Assistance Act – Sections 47 & 50	6
Noise Abatement	2
Nuisance	10
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	407
Refuse Collection	72
Rodent Control	384
Total visits for 1969	3,686

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1969

New Houses completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	310	——	310
(b) By any other Housing Authority	1,330	——	1,330
(c) By Private Persons	——	137	137

Total number of inhabited houses in District 13,485
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority 3,828

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION

(1) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas Nil
(2) Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas 99
(3) Houses closed, not demolished 24
(4) Any other house permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above Nil

REPAIRS

Houses made fit
(5) By informal action 47
(6) By owners, following statutory notice 19
(7) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil
(8) Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction Nil

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) Discretionary
(1) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year 6
(2) Applications rejected Nil
(3) Applications approved 6
(4) Approximate average grant approved per house Pre: 1969 Act £319; 1969 Act Nil
(5) Total number of houses approved for grant in area since inception of scheme 319

(b) Standard

	During the year	Total to date
(1) Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	32	293
(2) Number of houses so provided with:—		
(i) Bath or shower	18	178
(ii) Wash hand basin	19	193
(iii) Hot water supply	20	174
(iv) Water Closet	32	256
(v) Food Store	11	132

CLEARANCE AREA PROGRAMME
1956–1969

First 10 years 1957 to 1966—number of houses demolished—514

	Location	No of houses demolished	
11th Year	Union Street Lemington	43	24 families rehoused 1967/68 19 " " 1969
	Stanley Street Lemington	41	21 families rehoused 1967/68 20 " " 1969
	Lloyd Street Lemington	24	10 families rehoused 1967/68 14 " " 1969
	Dene View Scotswood	8	8 families rehoused 1967/68
12th Year	Francis Terrace Newburn	23	16 families rehoused 1968 (7 empty)

		No of houses to be demolished	
13th Year	Coniston Avenue Newburn	55	27 families rehoused 1969

Individual unfit houses dealt with – 37 houses closed since 1957

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME 1970-73

Housing Act 1957

		1970	1971	1972	1973
Phase III	Houses to be cleared	197	10	92	27
Phase II	Houses likely to be subject to demolition or closing orders	2	8	18	27

Approximate number of unfit houses likely to remain after 1973 – 169.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT
INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspection (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1 Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	3	3	—	—
2 Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	11	—	—
3 Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	11	4	1	—
TOTAL	66	18	1	—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	1	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	2	1	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK (SECTION 113)

Nature of work	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Wearing apparel:			
Making etc.	2	—	—
Labelling	3	—	—
TOTAL	5	—	—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(a) Unsound Food – Section 2

1. Cloth found in jar of jam. Manufacturer fined £10 with £5 5s. costs.
2. Piece of wood found in stick of rhubarb rock. Manufacturer fined £10 with £5 5s. costs.
3. Part of conveyor belt found in loaf of bread. Manufacturer given a conditional discharge with £5 5s. costs.
4. Insect found in a jar of dried mixed peppers. Manufacturer fined £10 with £5 costs and £1 entomologist's fee.

(b) Milk Supplies

Samples of milk retailed in the Urban District are taken by the County Health Inspector. Twenty-seven samples were submitted for examination, and all passed the appropriate tests except one which failed the Methylene Blue test.

(c) Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

(d) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

The total number of food premises subject to these regulations is 178 comprising 125 shops, 27 canteens, 15 public houses, 10 clubs and 1 mussels bottling factory.

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 is as follows:—

Butcher	17
Fried Fish..	8
Ice Cream	69
Mussels	1
	95

(e) Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

(f) Food Inspections

Unsound Food Surrendered	Cwts.	lbs.
Canned Meats		107
Other canned foods	1	25
Other foods		4

(g) Milk and Dairies (General)Regulations, 1959

Number of Registered Dairies ..	4
Number of Registered Distributors	46

(h) Ice Cream Premises

Number on Register at end of year	69

(i) Slaughterhouses

Number of Registered Slaughter-houses	1

(j) Meat Inspection

Number of carcases inspected:—

Cattle	Sheep	Pigs
261	482	33

Total weight of condemned meat – 5 cwts. 30 lbs.

Condemned meat was disposed of by means of an incinerator operated by the owners of the slaughterhouse, or under supervision on the Council's refuse tip.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises (1)	Number of Premises Registered during the year (2)	Number of Registered Premises at end of year (3)	Number of Registered Premises receiving a general inspection during the year (4)
Offices	—	22	10
Retail Shops	—	115	70
Wholesale Shops, and Warehouses	—	2	2
Catering establishments open to the public	—	17	13
Fuel Storage depots ..	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	156	95

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Number of Contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	1
6	Temperature	3
7	Ventilation	1
9	Sanitary Conveniences	1
10	Washing Facilities	1
16	Floors, passages and stairs	3
24	First Aid	1
	Other matters	5
	TOTAL	16

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

Name or Description of Area and Date of Operation	Acreage	No. of Properties	
Newburn No. 1 (Throckley) October, 1962	128.0	1,093	(1,200)
Newburn No. 2 (West Denton) October, 1961	190.0	1,724	
Newburn No. 3 (West Denton) September, 1965	22.0	205	
Newburn No. 4 (Westerhope/West Denton) July, 1966	222.4	1,972	(2,000)
Newburn No. 5 (West Avenue) January, 1966	4.8	56	
Newburn No. 6 (South Denton) July, 1966	11.0	135	
Newburn No. 7 (Walbottle) August, 1967	14.0	69	
Newburn No. 8 (Lemginton) August, 1967	31.0	282	
Newburn No. 9 (Lemington) July, 1969	17.0	110	(262)
Newburn No.10 (Lemington) July, 1969	55.0		(550)

NOTE: The figures in brackets refer to the estimated number of properties which will be included in smoke control areas when the housing estates are completed.

WATER SUPPLY

The district's water is supplied by the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company.

Examination:— Laboratory reports submitted by the Company indicate that there were 1,028 control samples taken throughout the year for bacteriological examination, all of which proved excellent.

The chemical composition of domestic water remained unchanged, fluoride being added at the rate of 1.0 milligrammes per litre.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

DAILY SMOKE AND SO_2 READINGS—(micro grammes per cu. metre)

	1964		1965		1966		1967		1968		1969	
	Smoke	SO_2	Smoke	SO_2	Smoke	SO_2	Smoke	SO_2	Smoke	SO_2	Smoke	SO_2
Council Offices	127	91	133	99	59	122	136	98	173	112	137	98
Westerhope Library	129	95	151	111	134	125	112	102	133	116	128	109

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The following return is forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food relating to action taken during the year ended 31st December, 1969.

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1 Number of properties in district	13,941	25
2 (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	289	9
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	270	9
(ii) Mice	19	—
3 (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	—	—
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	—	—
(ii) Mice	—	—

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